

BETHEL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

(EXCERPT)

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JANUARY 10, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lydda Mansfield, President

Lori Sebastian, Vice President

Danny Elam

Natalie Donahue

Jessica Franz

1 (Excerpt begins at 1:15:31 of recording.)

2 MRS. MANSFIELD: Item number 10, any  
3 information further from the superintendent?

4 MR. FIRKS: No, ma'am.

5 MRS. MANSFIELD: Thank you, sir.

6 Okay. Item number 11 is the board report. Old  
7 business? The best introduction I can give to  
8 this, I guess. A change went into effect the  
9 beginning of the year, correct?

10 So at the beginning of the year the  
11 district has adopted the stance I guess is the  
12 best way to put it that transgender students may  
13 use the restroom that aligns with their gender  
14 status upon advice received from our attorney.

15 The statement our attorney gave to  
16 us follows: Several United States Courts of  
17 Appeals, including the Sixth Circuit Court of  
18 Appeals, in which Ohio is located, have determined  
19 that Title IX of the Educational Amendments of  
20 1972 requires that transgender students be granted  
21 access to the restrooms and locker rooms of their  
22 sexual identification. This includes the Third  
23 Circuit, Sixth Circuit, and the Ninth Circuit.  
24 The Sixth Circuit case denied overturning a lower  
25 case ruling.

1           The United States Supreme Court,  
2 while not yet issuing a ruling on transgender  
3 school students using bathrooms of their sexual  
4 identifications in 2020 issued a ruling  
5 determining that transgender status is protected  
6 by the federal law against sex discrimination in  
7 the workplace, or Title VII.

8           Title VII and Title IX have similar  
9 prohibitions against discrimination. This ruling  
10 will have a significant impact on how the Supreme  
11 Court will rule on educational bathroom issues.

12           So again, we have made this change  
13 within our district based upon the advice of our  
14 attorney that should there be a court case come  
15 before us, pending or otherwise, we would not be  
16 successful in any battle and would simply cost the  
17 district a lot of money that we simply cannot  
18 afford to spend.

19           The change will be made. Our  
20 students are using bathrooms aligned with their  
21 identity at this time.

22           (Multiple speakers. Unable to  
23 transcribe.)

24           (Excerpt begins at 1:57:53 of recording.)

25           MRS. MANSFIELD: So with no other new

1 motions, I believe that concludes the hearing of  
2 the public.

3 Is there a need for executive session  
4 this evening? Hearing none, is there a motion to  
5 adjourn?

6 MR. ELAM: I'll move.

7 MRS. MANSFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Elam.  
8 Is there a second?

9 MRS. DONAHUE: I'll second.

10 MRS. MANSFIELD: Roll?

11 MRS. HAGEMAN: Mrs. Mansfield?

12 MRS. MANSFIELD: Yes.

13 MRS. HAGEMAN: Mrs. Sebastian?

14 MRS. SEBASTIAN: Yes.

15 MRS. HAGEMAN: Mr. Elam?

16 MR. ELAM: Yes.

17 MRS. HAGEMAN: Mrs. Donahue?

18 MRS. DONAHUE: Yes.

19 MRS. HAGEMAN: Mrs. Franz?

20 MRS. FRANZ: Yes.

21 MRS. MANSFIELD: We are adjourned at  
22 8:57 p.m. Thank you all very much for your  
23 attendance. We have our next meeting on  
24 February 14th covering the first (unintelligible).  
25 (Thereupon, the meeting was adjourned

1 and the recording ended.)

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1 STATE OF OHIO )

2 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY ) SS: CERTIFICATE

3 I, Caryl L. Blevins, a Notary Public within  
4 and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and  
5 qualified,

6 DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above-named  
7 proceeding was reduced to writing by me  
8 stenographically from a recording to the best of  
9 my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative  
11 or Attorney of either party, in any manner  
12 interested in the event of this action, nor am I,  
13 or the court reporting firm with which I am  
14 affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil  
15 Rule 28(D).

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
17 my hand and seal of office at Dayton, Ohio, on  
18 this 29th day of August, 2022.

19  
20 /s/ Caryl L. Blevins  
21 CARYL L. BLEVINS, RPR, CRR  
22 NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO  
23 My commission expires 7-16-2023  
24  
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